

279TH BASE SUPPORT BATTALLION

COMMANDER'S POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 02-21	DATE: AUG 13 2003
SUBJECT: Supervision of Children in the Bamberg German/American Military Community	
PROPONENT: Family Advocacy (469-7777)	DISTRIBUTION: A, B & C

PURPOSE: Establish local policy regarding supervision of children in the 279th Base Support Battalion (BSB) area.

SCOPE: Applies to personnel, civilian or military, assigned, attached or otherwise present in the 279th BSB area of control. Area of control refers to those areas the Department of the Army has a right to maintain order and discipline over, such as military housing and government rental housing (GRHP), as well as all military installations in the Bamberg area. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, as well as adverse administrative action to include, but not limited to, loss of logistical support, advance return of dependents and loss of command sponsorship.

REFERENCES:

- a. AR 608-18, Family Advocacy Program and AR 608-10, Child Development Services.
- b. Memorandum, HQ USAREUR/7A, AEAGA-GY, 25 September 2000, subject: Letter of Instruction for USAREUR Babysitting Training and Referral Service Procedures.
- c. Memorandum, HQ USAREUR/7A, AEAGA-GY, 20 February 2001, subject: USAREUR Child-Supervision Policy

DEFINITIONS:

- a. Child(ren): Any person who has not reached their 18th birthday.
- b. Adult Guardian: A person, 18 years of age or older, who has been appointed, either by law or by permission of the parent, to take care of the child or adolescent in the parent's absence.
- c. Authorized Caregiver: A sponsor, parent, certified Family Child Care (FCC) provider, adolescent babysitter (12 years of age or older), Child Development Center, School Age Services Program, Supplemental Services Program or Youth Services Program. An adult guardian may also be an authorized caregiver consistent with the provisions of AR 608-10.

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d. Supervision: Actual presence of a parent, adult guardian, or authorized caregiver in the immediate vicinity of a child, so that the caregiver is able to immediately respond to the needs of the child. Short absences (not to exceed five minutes) are acceptable, provided that the appropriate measures are taken to reduce health and safety risks to the child during that absence. Examples of appropriate supervision include: leaving a 2 year old in a playpen while the parent goes to a basement laundry room, using an electronic baby monitor to listen to a child in another room. Paragraph 1 of this policy letter also provides specific guidelines for appropriate supervision.

Applicability: This policy applies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to all members of the Bamberg German/American Military community (279th Base Support Battalion) who are parents, legal guardians, or authorized caregivers of children who -

- a. Live with them in a military housing area or in a home in the local community.
- b. Have not yet graduated from high school.

POLICY:

1. The BSB Commander is responsible for promoting the health, safety and welfare of all who live within the 279th BSB's jurisdiction. Children who are left without responsible supervision are susceptible to harm, which all too often produces tragic results. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children are properly supervised and safeguarded. Military Police and Social Work Service (SWS) are required to investigate incidents which violate this policy letter on behalf of the Commander. The Department of the Army, through the Family Advocacy Program, aims to prevent incidents of child abuse and to protect those who are victims of abuse. Child neglect is a category of child abuse. Parents and guardians are guilty of neglect if they fail to adequately provide for the basic needs of their children, such as food, shelter, medical and dental care, education, supervision and safety. To ensure that neglect does not occur all parents/guardians must adhere to the following standards:

- a. **Children**, regardless of age, will not be left unattended in circumstances involving potential or actual risk to their health and/or safety.
- b. **Children below kindergarten age** require close supervision and therefore must be in direct contact with a caregiver at all times.

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c. **Children from kindergarten to 5th grade** wish to explore their environment. As a result they must also be protected from the consequences of their natural curiosity. Supervision may not require constant direct contact, however it will require the caregiver to be in the immediate vicinity of the child and in visible or hearing range at all times. Note: kindergarteners may not walk to school or other supervised activities alone. 1st to 5th graders may walk to school alone but may not supervise kindergarteners walking to school or supervised activities.

d. **Children in grades 6-7** should be allowed to explore their environment in order to build up their self-reliance, however they need to be supervised using direct and indirect methods. Indirect supervision means that the parent should know their children's whereabouts and should check their welfare frequently. Children at this grade level can be left alone for up to 6 hours, not overnight, with ready access to an adult. Children in grade 6 may baby-sit siblings for up to 3 hrs with ready access to an adult. Children in grade 7 may baby-sit siblings and others for up to 6 hrs, not overnight, with ready access to an adult. The Red Cross Babysitting Course is strongly recommended. Children at this grade level can be left alone in an automobile for up to 15 minutes, but the keys must be removed and the hand brake applied.

e. **Children in grades 8-9** in most cases should be mature enough to start exercising self-supervision. Children in these grades may be left alone, but not overnight. These children can baby-sit siblings for up to 12 hours, with ready access to an adult. They may baby-sit other children but they are strongly recommended to attend the Red Cross Babysitting Course. Children in this grade can be left alone in an automobile for up to 15 minutes, but the keys must be removed and handbrake applied.

f. **Children in grades 10-12** may be left alone overnight but a responsible adult must check on them at least twice during the day. Children in the 12th grade may be left alone for no more than 3 consecutive days. Parents are responsible for ensuring that the children know where at least one parent is, and have access to telephone numbers of responsible adults in the event of an emergency. It is strongly recommended that caregivers plan for any emergency to include risks to medical and personal safety.

g. Overnight babysitting by children in grades 10-12 shall not be on a regular and continuous basis. The Red Cross Babysitting Course is strongly recommended for all children who provide childcare.

h. Parents and guardians who leave children grades 6 and above unattended should provide the child with a key, emergency phone numbers (police, fire department, and dispensary), a phone number where parents can be reached, the expected time of return, and the name and phone number of an adult who can be reached immediately in the event of an emergency. The designated adult must be aware of his/her responsibility. Parents/guardians should notify the designated adult by phone or in person before departure.

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i. Children under the age of 16 shall be inside their own or someone else's quarters (with parental consent) between 2400 and 0500 Friday through Saturday, and between 2200 and 0500 Sunday through Thursday. During periods when school is not in session, curfew will be 2400 to 0500 daily.

j. Curfew for children ages 16-17 will be from 2400-0500 daily.

k. Exceptions to curfew hours will be granted for children returning home immediately after sanctioned functions, such as school dances, athletic events and Youth Services activities.

2. Children will advance to the next grade level on the first day of the new grade. During the summer they will be considered to be in the grade they have just completed.

3. Conversion From Age to Grade (for Home-Schooled Children)

Age	4/5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Grade	Kindergarten	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th

Age	12	13	14	15	16	17/18	
Grade	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	

4. Every Member of this community has the responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Military Police (MP) at 0951-300-8700/770 or DSN 469-8700/7770. When children are determined to be unsupervised, the MPs will be called. The MPs and SWS will assess the incident and present it to the Family Advocacy Program Case Review Committee (CRC) when the report is deemed credible. The CRC will then address the applicable rights of alleged victims and offenders, determine whether an incident of neglect has taken place IAW AR 608-18, and recommend treatment plans to resolve the problems in these families.

5. Children develop at different rates. Some children may require more or less supervision than indicated above for children of the same age. However, parents, guardians, and authorized caregivers are required to follow the above standards, unless an exception has been approved through the BSB. Any other deviation from these standards will be a basis for investigation of potential child neglect.

a. When warranted, with due regard to the age, maturity of the child and the activity in question, requests for an exception to this policy will be considered for approval.

b. Parents, guardians and authorized caregivers may submit a written request for exception to the Child Supervision Policy by describing, in detail, the reasons for the request and providing written justification from at least two of the following sources:

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1. The concerned teacher/s
2. Chaplain
3. Social Work Service Case Manager
6. The enclosed 279th BSB Child Supervision Matrix explains the level of adult supervision required for children in different grades.
7. POC is Family Advocacy at 0951-300-7777 or DSN 469-7777.
8. "Maximum Support - It Shall Be Done!"



DANIEL L. THOMAS
LTC, MI
Commanding

Enclosure

279th Base Support Battalion Child Supervision Matrix

Age or grade of child	May be left alone at home	May be left alone overnight	May be left outside unsupervised (including playing)	May be left alone in an automobile	May baby-sit siblings	May baby-sit others
Newborn through age 4	No	No	No	No	No	No
Kindergarten through grade 5	No	No	In a playground or yard with immediate access to adult supervision (visual or hearing range) (note 1). Kindergartners may not walk to and from school or other supervised activities alone. 1 st thru 5 th graders may walk alone to and from school and other supervised activities.	No	No 1 st thru 5 th graders can not supervise siblings on walk to school or other supervised activities	No
Grade 6-7	For up to 6 hours, not overnight, with ready access to adult supervision i.e. telephone numbers (see notes 1 and 2).	No	For up to 6 hours with ready access to adult supervision (see note 1)	For up to 15 minutes with the hand brake applied and the keys removed	Grade 6: For up to 3 hrs with ready access to an adult (see notes 2 and 3) Grade 7: For up to 6 hrs with ready access to an adult (see notes 2 and 3)	Grade 6: No Grade 7: For up to 6 hrs, not overnight, with ready access to an adult (see note 3)
Grades 8-9	Yes, but not overnight	No	Yes	For up to 15 minutes with the hand brake applied and the keys removed	For up to 12 hours with ready access to an adult (see note 3)	For up to 12 hrs, not overnight, with ready access to an adult (see note 3)
Grades 10-12	Yes	May be left alone overnight, but a responsible adult (see note 1) must check on them twice during the day. Children will have emergency POC numbers. Children in grade 12 can be left alone for no more than 3 consecutive days.	Yes	Yes	Yes (see note 3)	Yes (see note 3)

Notes:

1. Adult supervision is defined as care provided by someone over the age of 18 who has or assumes responsibility for the child (for example, parent, neighbor, caregiver).
2. Home-alone training by Child and Youth Services (CYS) or other source is required.
3. Red Cross baby-sitting training is strongly recommended.
4. Curfew hours for juveniles (under the age of 16) will be 22:00 Sundays-Thursdays and 24:00 on Fridays and Saturdays. Curfew for children ages 16-17 is 24:00 daily. Children are expected to be at their residence or in the care of a responsible adult after these hours. Exceptions are children attending a DoDDS, CYS or Chapel Youth Ministries activity.
5. Suggested supervision options include CYS sponsored activities (School Age Services, Child Development Center, Family Child Care Homes) and community resources (schools, nannies, in-home baby-sitter, churches, scouts, host nation programs)
6. POC for this policy letter and matrix is the Family Advocacy Program, please call DSN 469-7777 (0951-300-7777) if you have any questions.
7. If you suspect child abuse has occurred please call the military police at DSN 475-8700/7770 (0951-300-8700/7770).